

Message Text

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67

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

L-03 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 SS-14 NSC-10 RSR-01 /071 W

----- 024593

R 261750 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4114

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ETRD, TK, CU

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN LOBSTER ENTERING U. S. VIA TURKS
AND CAICOS

1. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, CONSULATE OFFICER LEARNED OF A POSSIBLE DEAL TO PURCHASE CUBAN LOBSTER, PROCESS THEM AT ONE OF THE U. S. OWNED FREEZING PLANTS IN THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, AND EXPORT THEM TO THE U. S. WITH THE LOCAL CATCH. INITIAL CORRESPONDENCE HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH CUBAN FISHERIES AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO ARRANGE FOR THE LOBSTER PURCHASES.

2. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS A LOCAL SOLICITOR CONNECTED WITH ONE OF THE FOUR U. S. FIRMS (ATLANTIC GOLD, ROUTH FISHERIES, ATLANTIC FISHERIES AND BUTTERFIELD). HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH ONE.

3. WHEN THE CONSULATE OFFICER ADVISED HIM THAT THIS WOULD BE COUNTER TO U. S. REGULATIONS, AND COULD ENDANGER TURKS AND CAICOS LOBSTER EXPORT TO THE U. S., THE SOLICITOR REPLIED THAT THE U. S. COMPANY HAD CHECKED INTO THE SUBJECT THROUGH ITS CONGRESSMAN FROM CALIFORNIA. THE CONGRESSMAN ALLEGEDLY INFORMED THE COMPANY THAT AN ARRANGEMENT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE USG.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRM THE CONSULATE' S UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH A DEAL COULD ENDANGER
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EXPORT OF LOBSTER FROM TURKS AND CAICOS TO THE U. S.; (B) PROVIDE
THE CONSULATE WITH SUGGESTED LANGUAGE ANE PRIME MINISTER PENGEL
RESIGNED IN THE
EXPECTATION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE REAPPOINTED AS
CARETAKER GOVERNMENT SO AS TO BE ABLE TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS,
WITH ALL THE BENEFITS WHICH THAT ENTAILS. SOME FAST FOOT
WORK ENSUED AND WHEN THE DUST CLEARED PENGEL AND HIS PARTY WERE
OUT OF POWER. END COMMENT.

2. ALL OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE ISSUED A JOINT CALL FOR
EARLY ELECTIONS. THE STATEMENT ATTACKS THE GOVERNMENT'S
POLICE POLICY AND REPEATS RECENT CHARGES OF CORRUPTION IN
THIS GOVERNMENT.
JOHNSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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